

THE HISTORY OF THE

Vor myd tuo hondred fýpes & an alf at Temle mouh
hii come,
And Londone, and Kanterbury, and oþer tounes nome,
And fo vorþ in to Soþereye, & ſlowe & barnde vaſte,
þere þe kyng and ys ſone hem mette atte laſte.
þere was batayle ſtrong ynou yfmyte in an prow.
þe godes kyngtes leye adoun as gras, wan medep mowe.
Heueden, (þat were of yfmyte,) & oþer lymes alfo.
Flere in blode al fram þe grounde, ar þe batayle were ydo.
Wanne þat blod ſtod al abrod, vas þer gret wo y nou.
Nys yt reuþe vorto hure, þat me ſo volc ſlou?
Ac our ſuete Louerd atte laſte ſlewede ys ſuete grace,
And ſende þe Criſtlyne Englyſſe men þe mayſtrye in þe
place,
And þe heþene men of Denemarch byneþe were echon.
Nou nas þer gut in Denemarch Criſtendom non;
þe kyng her after to holy chyrcþe ys herte þe more drou,
And teþegede wel & al ys lond, as hii agte, wel y nou.
Seyn Swythyn at Wyncheſtre byſſop þo was,
And Alcſton at Syrebourne, þat amedeþe muþe
þys cas.
þe kyng was wel þe betere man þoru her beýre red,
Twenty wynter he was kyng, ar he were ded.
At Wyncheſtre he was ybured, as he gut lþ þere.
Hys tueye ſones he gef ys lond, as he byget ham ere.
Adelbold, the eldore, þe kyndom of Eſſex,
And ſupþe Adelbrygt, Kent and Weſſex.
Eygte hondred ger yt was and ſeueþe and ſyfty al ſo,
After þat God anerþe com, þat þys dede was ydo.
Boþe hii wuſte by her tyme wel her kyndom,
At þe vyfte ger Adelbold out of þys lyue nome.
At Syrebourne he was ybured, & ys broþer Adelbrygt
Hys kyndom adde after hym, as lawe was and rygþ.
By ys daye þe verde com of þe heþene men wel prout,
And Hamteſſyre and deſtrude Wyncheſtre al out.
And þat lond ſole of Hamteſſyre her red þo nome
And of Barcſſyre, and forþe and þe ſirewen ouercome.
Adelbrygt was kyng of Kent geses folle tene,
And of Weſſex bote ryue, þo he deýde ych wene.

ADELRED was after hym kyng y mad in þe place,
Eygte hondred & ſeueþe & ſyfty as in þe ger of grace,
þe vorſte ger of ys kyndom þe Deneys þycke com,
And robbede and deſtrude, and cytes vaſte nome.
Mayſtres hii adde of her oſt, as yt were dukes, tueye,
Hynguar and Hubba, þat ſirewen were bye.
In Eſt Angle hii byleude, to reſt hem as yt were,
Myd her oſt al þe wynter, of þe vorſt gere,
þe oþer ger hii dude hem vorþ, & ouer Homber come,
And ſlowe to grounde & barnde, & Euerwyk nome.
þer was batayle ſtrong y nou, vor ylawe was þere
Otryekyng of Homberlond, & monye þat with hym were,
þo Homberlond was þus yſend, hii wende & tounes
nome.
So þat atte laſte to Eſtangle agen hym come.
þer hii barnde & robbede, & þat ſole to grounde ſlowe,
And, as wolues among ſlep, reulych hem to drowe.
Seýnt Edmond was þo her kyng, & þo he ſey þat deluol
cas
þat me morþrede ſo þat ſole, & non amendement nas,
He ches leuere to deye hymſelf, þat ſuch ſorwe to yleý.
He dude hym vorþ among ys ſon, nolde he noþyg fle.
Hii nome hym & ſcourged hym, & ſupþe naked hym
bounde
To a tre, & to hym ſlote, & made hym mony a wounde,
þat þe arewe were on hym þo þyce, þat no ſtede nas
byleude.
Atte laſte hii martred hym, & ſmyte of ys heued.
þe ſyfte ger of þe crownement of Aldered þe kyng
A nywe oſt com into þys lond, gret þoru alle þyng,
And anon to Redyng robbede and ſlowe.
þe kyng and Alfred ys broþer nome men ynoue,
Mette hem, and a batayle ſmyte vp Aſſedoune,
þer was mony moder chýld, þat ſone lay þer doun.
þe batayle ylaſte vorte rygþ, and þer were alawe
vyf dukes of Denemarch, ar hii wolde wyþ drawe,
And mony þouſend of oþer men, & þo gonne hii
to fle;
Ac hii adde alle ybe aſſend, gýf þe rygþ nadde y be.
Tueye batayles her after in þe ſult gere
Hii ſmyte, and at boþe þe heþene mayſtres were.

þe kyng Aldered ſone þo þen weý of dep nome,
As yt vel, þe vyfty ger of ys kyndom.
At Wymbourne he was ybured, as God gef þat cas,
þe gode Alfred, ys broþer, after hym kyng was.
ALFRRED, þys noble man, as in þe ger of grace
he nom
Eygte hondred & ſyfty & tuelue þe kyndom.
Ariſt he adde at Rome ybe, & vor ys grete wyſdom,
þe pope Leon hym bleſede, þo he þuder com,
And þe kynges croune of hys lond, þat in þys lond
gut ys:
And he led hym to be kyng, ar he kyng were ywys.
An he was kyng of Engeland, of alle þat þer come,
þat vorſt þus ylad was of þe pope of Rome,
An ſupþe oþer after hym of þe erchebyſſopes echon.
So þat hyuor hym pore kyng nas þer non.
In þe Souþ ſýde of Temle nyne batayles he nome.
Agen þe Deneys þe vorſt ger of ys kyndom.
Nye ger he was þus in þys lond in batayle & in wo,
An oſte ſýþe aboue was, and byneþe oſtor mo;
So longe, þat hym nere by leuede bote þre ſýren in ys
lond,
Hamteſſyre, and Wylteſſyre, and Somerſete, of al ys lond.
A day as he werý was, and aſuoddrynge hym nome
And ys men were ywend auýſſep, Seyn Cutbert to hym
com.
“Ich am,” he ſeyde, “Cutbert, to þe ycham ywend
“To byryge þe gode tytýnges. Fram God ycham yſend.
“Vor þat ſole of þys lond to ſynne her wyſle al geue,
“And gut nolle herto her ſynnes býleue
“þoru me & oþer halewen, þat in þys lond were yþore;
“þan vor gou byddeþ God, wanne we beþ hym býuore,
“Hour Louerd myd ys eyen of milce on þe lokeþ
þeruore,
“And þy poer þe wole gýue agen, þat þou aſt neý
verlore.
“And þat þou þer of ſop yle, þou ſfalt abbe tokýnyng.
“Vor þym men, þat beþ ago to day auýſſyng,
“In lepes & in couſles ſo muþe vyſ hii ſlode hym
byryng,
“þat ech man wondry ſal of ſo gret cacchýng.
“And þe mor vor þe harde vorſte, þat þe water yſſore
hys,
“þat þe more agen þe kunde of vyſſýng yt ys.
“Of ſerue yt wel agen God, and yleſ me ys meſſager,
“And þou ſall þy wyſle abyde, as ycham ytolde her.”
As þys kyng herof awoc, and of þys ſygte þorþe,
Hys vyſſares come to hym, & ſo gret won of tyſ hym
brogte,
þat wonder yt was, & namelyche vor þe weder was ſo
colde.
þo lyuede þe god man wel, þat Seyn Cutbert adde ytold.
In Deuenyſſyre þer after aryuede of Deneys
þre and twenty ſýpuol men, all agen þe peys,
þe kynges broþer of Denemarch due of oſt was.
Oure kynges men of Engeland mette hem by cas,
And ſmyte ys godfader was, and her gret due ſlowe,
And eygte hondred & fourty men, & her caronyes to
drowe.
þo kyng Alfred hurde þys, ys herte gladede þo,
þat lond ſole to hym come ſo þycke ſo yt mygte go,
Of Somerſete, of Wylteſſyre, of Hamteſſyre þerto,
Euere as he wende, and of ys owe ſole al ſo.
So þat he adde poer ynou, and atte laſte hii come,
And a batayle at Edendone agen þe Deneys nome,
And ſlowe to grounde, & wonne þe mayſtre of the velde.
þe kyng & ys grete duke býgonne hem to gelde.
To þe kyng Alfred to ys wyſle, and oſtages toke,
Vorto wende out of ys lond, gýf he yt wolde loke;
And gut þerto, vor ys loue, to auonge Criſtendom.
Kyng Gurmund, þe hexte kyng, vorſt þer to come.
Kyng Alfred ys godfader was, & yþaptyed ek þer were
þretty of her hexte dukes, and muþe of þat ſole þere
Kyng Alfred hem huld wyþ hym tuelf dawes as he
hende,
And ſupþe he gef hem large gýtes, and let hym wende.
Hii, þat nolde Criſtyn be, of lande ſlowe þo.
And bygonde ſee in France dude wel muþe wo.
gut þe ſirewen come agen, and muþe wo here wrogte.
Ac þe kyng Alfred atte laſte to ſlame hem euere brogte.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

Kyng Alfred was þe wyſſt kyng, þat long was býuore.
Vor þey me ſegge þe lawes beþ in worre tyme vorlore,
Nas yt nogt ſo hii daye. vor þey he in worre were,
Lawes he made rygþuollere, and ſtrengore þan er were.
Clerc he was god ynou, and gut, as me telleþ me,
He was more þan ten ger old, ar he coupe ys abece.
Ac ys gode moder oſte ſmale gýtes hym tok,
Vor to byleue oþer ple, and loký on ys boke.
So þat by þor clergye ys rygþ lawes he wonde,
þat neuere er nere y mad, to gouerný ys lond.
And vor þe worre was ſo muþe of þe luper Deneys,
þe men of þys ſule lond were of þe worſe peys.
And robbede and ſlowe oþere, þeruor he býuonde,
þat þer were hondredes in eche contreye of ys lond,
And in ech toun of þe hondred a teþyng were alfo,
And þat ech man wyþoute gret lond in teþyng were ydo,
And þat ech man kneue oþer þat in teþyng were,
And wuſte ſomdel of her ſtat, gýf me þu vp hem bere.
So ſtreýt he was, þat þey me lede amýdde weyes heye
Seluer, þat non man ne dorſte yt nyme, þey he yt ſeye.
Abbeys he rerde mony on, and mony ſtudes ywys.
Ac Wyncheſtre he rerdeon, þat nywe munſtre ycluped ys.
Hys lyf eygte and twenty ger in ys kyndom ylaſte.
After ys deþ he was ybured at Wyncheſtre atte laſte.

Sir John Mandeville wrote, as he himſelf informs us, in
the fourteenth century, and his work, which comprising
a relation of many different particulars, conſequently
required the uſe of many words and phraſes, may be
properly ſpecified in this place. Of the following quo-
tations, I have choſen the firſt, becauſe it ſhows, in
ſome meaſure, the ſtate of European ſcience as well as
of the Engliſþ tongue; and the ſecond, becauſe it is
valuable for the force of thought and beauty of ex-
preſſion.

IN that lond, ne in many othere bezonde that, no
man may ſee the ſterre tranſmontane, that is clept
the ſterre of the ſee, that is unmevabe, and that is to-
ward the Northe, that we clepen the lode ſterre. But
men ſeen another ſterre, the contrarie to him, that is
toward the Southe, that is clept Antartyk. And right
as the ſchip men taken here avys here, and gouerne hem
be the lode ſterre, right ſo don ſchip men bezonde the
parties, be the ſterre of the Southe, the which ſterre
apperethe not to us. And this ſterre, that is toward
the Northe, that we clepen the lode ſterre, ne ap-
perethe not to hem. For whiche cauſe, men may wel
perceyve, that the lond and the ſee ben of rownde ſchapp
and forme. For the partie of the firmament ſchewethe
in o contree, that ſchewethe not in another contree.
And men may wel preven be experience and ſotyle
compaſſement of wytt, that zif a man ſond paſſages be
ſchippes, that wolde go to ſerchen the world, men
myghte go be ſchippe alle aboute the world, and aboven
and benethen. The whiche thing I prove thus, aſtre
that I have ſeyn. For I have been toward the parties
of Braban, and beholden the Aſtrolabre, that the ſterre
that is clept the tranſmontayne, is 53 degrees highe.
And more forthere in Almayne and Bewme, it hathe
58 degrees. And more forthe toward the parties ſep-
temtrionales, it is 62 degrees of heghte, and certyn
mynutes. For I my ſelf have meſured it by the Aſtro-
labre. Now ſchulle ze knowe, that azen the Tranſ-
montayne, is the tother ſterre, that is clept Antartyke;
as I have ſeyd before. And tho 2 ſterres ne meeven
nevere. And be hem turnethe alle the firmament, righte
as dothe a wheel, that turnethe be his axille tree: ſo
that tho ſterres beren the firmament in 2 egalle parties;
ſo that it hathe als mochel aboven, as it hathe benethen.
Aſtre this, I have gon toward the parties meridionales,
that is toward the Southe: and I have founden, that in
Lybye, men ſeen firſt the ſterre Antartyk. And ſo fer
I have gon more in tho contrees, that I have founde that
ſterre more highe; ſo that toward the highe Lybye, it
is 18 degrees of heghte, and certeyn minutes (of the
whiche, 60 minutes maken a degree) aſtre goynge be
ſee and be londe, toward this contree, of that I have
ſpoke, and to other yles and londes bezonde that con-
tree, I have founden the ſterre Antartyk of 33 degrees
of heghte, and mo mynutes. And zif I hadde had

compane and ſchippynges, for to go more bezonde, I
trowe wel in certyn, that wee ſcholde have ſeen alle the
roundneſſe of the firmament alle aboute. For as I have
ſeyd zou be ſorn, the half of the firmament is betwene
tho 2 ſterres: the whiche halfondelle I have ſeyn. And
of the tother halfondelle, I have ſeyn toward the Northe,
undre the Tranſmontane 62 degrees and 10 mynutes;
and toward the partie meridionale, I have ſeen undre the
Antartyk 33 degrees and 16 mynutes: and thanne the
halfondelle of the firmament in alle, ne holdethe not
but 180 degrees. And of tho 180, I have ſeen 62 on
that o part, and 33 on that other part, that ben 95 de-
grees, and nyghe the halfondelle of a degree; and ſo
there ne faylethe but that I have ſeen alle the firmament,
ſaf 84 degrees and the halfondelle of a degree; and
that is not the fourthe part of the firmament. For the
4 partie of the roundneſſe of the firmament holt 90 de-
grees: ſo there faylethe but 5 degrees and an half, of
the fourthe partie. And alfo I have ſeen the 3 parties
of alle the roundneſſe of the firmament, and more zit
5 degrees and an half. Be the whiche I ſeye zou cer-
teynly, that men may envirowne alle the erthe of alle the
world, as wel undre as aboven, and turnen azen to his
contree, that hadde compane and ſchippynges and con-
duyt: and alle weyes he ſcholde fynde men, londes, and
yles, als wel as in this contree. For zee wyten welle,
that thei that ben toward the Antartyk, thei ben ſtregh-
te, ſeen azen feet of hem, that dwellen undre the tranſ-
montane; als wel as wee and thei that dwellyn under us,
ben ſeen azen feet. For alle the parties of ſee and of
lond han here appoſitees, habitables or trepaſſables, and
thei of this half and bezond half. And wyteche wel,
that aſtre that, that I may perceyve and comprehend,
the londes of Preſtre John, emperour of Ynde ben
undre us. For in goynge from Scotland or from Eng-
land toward Jeruſalem, men gon upward always. For
oure lond is in the lowe partie of the erthe, toward the
Weſt: and the lond of Preſtre John is the lowe partie
of the erthe, toward the Eſt: and thei han there the
day, whan wee have the nyghte, and alfo highe to the
contrarie, thei han the nyghte, whan wee han the day.
For the erthe and the ſee ben of round forme and ſchapp,
as I have ſeyd before. And that that men gon upward
to o coſt, men gon downward to another coſt. Alfo
zee have herd me ſeye, that Jeruſalem is in the myddes
of the world; and that may men preven and ſchewen
there, be a ſpere, that is pighite in to the erthe, upon
the hour of mydday, whan it is equenoxium, that
ſchewethe no ſchadwe on no ſyde. And that it ſcholde
ben in the myddes of the world, David wyneſſethe it
in the Pſautre, where he ſeythe, Deus operatus eſt ſa-
lutem in medio terre. Thanne thei that parten fro the
parties of the Weſt, for to go toward Jeruſalem, als
many iorneyes as thei gon upward for to go thidre, in als
many iorneyes may thei gon fro Jeruſalem, unto other
conſynyes of the ſuperſicialtie of the erthe bezonde.
And whan men gon bezonde tho iorneyes, towarde
Ynde and to the foreyn yles, alle is envyronyng the
roundneſſe of the erthe and of the ſee, undre oure con-
trees on this half. And therfore hathe it befallen many
tymes of o thing, that I have herd cownted, whan I
was zong; how a worthi man departed ſometyme from
oure contrees, for to go ſerche the world. And ſo he
paſſed Ynde, and the yles bezonde Ynde, where ben mo
than 5000 yles: and ſo longe he wente be ſee and lond,
and ſo envyround the world be many ſeyſons, that he
fond an yle, where he herde ſpeke his owne langage,
callynge on oxen in the plowghe, ſuche wordes as men
ſpeken to beſtes in his owne contree: whereof he hadde
gret mervayle: for he kneue not how it myghte be.
But I ſeye, that he had gon ſo longe, be londe and be
ſee, that he had envyround alle the erthe, that he was
comen azen envyrounyng, that is to ſeye, goynge
aboute, unto his owne marches, zif he wolde have
paſſed forthe, til he had founden his contree and his
owne knouleche. But he turned azen from thens, from
whens he was come fro; and ſo he loſte moche payne-
fulle labour, as him ſelf ſeyde, a gret while aſtre,
that he was comen hom. For it beſelle aſtre, that
he wente in to Norweye; and there tempeſt of the ſee
toke him; and he arryved in an yle; and whan he was